

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7 have been amended.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, due to confusion about what was being claimed.

Please refer to Fig. HOSOGAI-1 on the next page, which depicts in cross-sectional view, the material described at paragraphs [0027] – [0029] of the specification as filed, published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0024034. More specifically, please note that the first panel zipper flap refers to the folded portion of the first panel, while the first cover flap refers to the assembly comprising the first panel zipper flap, the first fly cover finish seam and so on.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-6 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, is requested.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,234,564 (Chujfi).

Claim 1 is directed to an improved reversible zipper fly cover comprising a zipper having a first attachment strip opposite a second attachment strip. First and second panel zipper flaps are respectively connected to the first and second attachment strips by first and second attachment seams, the first and second attachment strips being generally flat. First and second fly cover flaps are formed by respectively attaching the first and second panel zipper flaps to first and second panels by first and second fly cover finish seams. Fig. HOSOGAI-1 herein shows this arrangement in cross-sectional view.

Chujfi shows a frontal view of a reversible zipper in Fig. 3. At column 3, lines 1-9, Chujfi explains that the interlocking strips of its zipper – corresponding to the attachment strips described in the present application – are sewn into hems 40 formed by the folded over edges of the front portions 12 of pants. Fig. CHUJFI-1 herein shows this arrangement in cross-sectional view.

Chujfi's zipper attachment strips are not generally flat, as required by claim 1. Instead, Chujfi's zipper attachment strips are generally U-shaped. Enclosing the attachment strips in the hem produces a tailored appearance, which Chujfi apparently desired. Furthermore, it would not

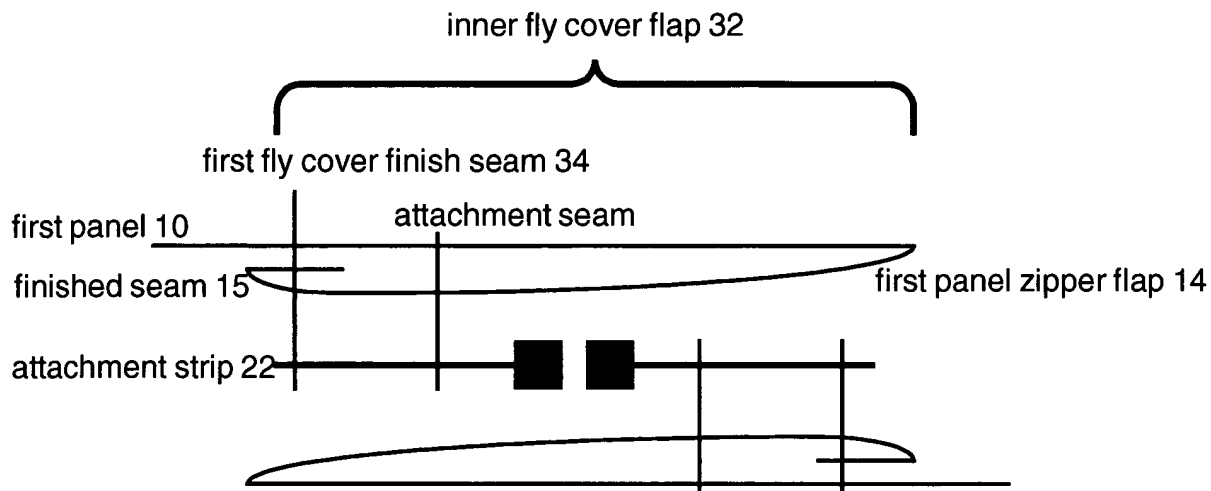


FIG. HOSOGAI-1

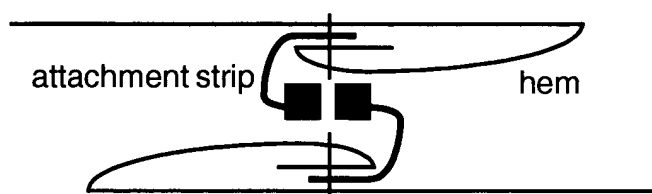


FIG. CHUJFI-1

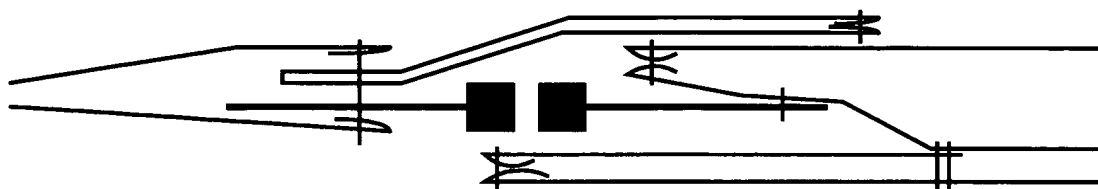


FIG. VAGHELA-1

be obvious to the artisan of ordinary skill to simply flatten Chujfi's attachment strips, as that would involve unsightly attachment seams on the outside of the garment; the artisan of ordinary skill would not be motivated to alter the width of the folded edge of the front portions, as in the present application, since such redesigns are beyond the capacity of the artisan of ordinary skill.

Chujfi's U-shaped attachment strip is more prone to wear than an attachment strip according to the present invention. Chujfi's entire reversible zipper assembly has a bulge in the middle, including the back and front traveler guides on Chujfi's zipper, as compared to the present invention's reversible zipper assembly being generally flat; the present invention is believed to be more wearable and aesthetically pleasing than Chujfi.

Claim 5 is a method claim generally corresponding to claim 1, and is not made obvious by Chujfi for the reasons described above. Claim 6 depends from claim 5, and so incorporates its features that patentably distinguish from Chujfi.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 6 under 35 USC 102 is requested.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Chujfi and GB Patent No. 2,153,656 (Vaghela).

Claim 7 is directed to a reversible garment with a reversible fly, comprising first and second panel zipper flaps respectively attached to first and second panels of the reversible garment, the second panel zipper flap having the same shape as the first panel zipper flap. A zipper having a reversible traveler guide is located between the first and second panel zipper flaps, the zipper having first and second attachment strips respectively affixed to the first and second panel zipper flaps by first and second attachment seams, the first and second attachment strips being generally flat.

Fig. 5 of Vaghela is shown herein as Fig. VAGHELA-1 for comparison. Vaghela was cited as showing a zipper with a reversible traveler guide. The proper combination of Chujfi and Vaghela is to replace Chujfi's two zipper traveler guides with Vaghela's one reversible traveler guide, which, while an improvement that reduces bulk, does not result in the present invention that requires the zipper attachment strips to be generally flat. Accordingly, claim 7 is patentably distinguished from any proper combination of Chujfi and Vaghela.

Claim 8 depends from claim 7, and so incorporates its features that patentably distinguish from Chujfi.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-8 under 35 USC 103 is requested.

Please call the undersigned if there are any questions. A Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brenda Pomerance

Brenda Pomerance
Reg. No. 36,894

Address:
Law Office of Brenda Pomerance
260 West 52 St. Ste. 27B
New York, NY 10019
voice/fax 212 245-3940